8/13/79

Mr. Richard Kleindienst
Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kleindienst,

It is because of all the loud noises from this administration about "law and order", because of your own early emphasis on the waste of money and time, and because I would hope all Americans should be able to expect their government to be a model for our young people, that I write you this morning, after the newest disappointment I felt in court yesterday.

This letter, therefore, is a challenge.

First, I challenge you to personally examine the correspondence between your Department and me and my lawyer on just a single matter, my year-and-a-half of effort to get access to the public records of a public trial of an American citizen confiscated by your Department. Having done this, I challenge you to show me a single truthful communication of any kind, to me, to my lawyer, to the court, or in court, for Mr. Anderson, knowingly or otherwise, also spoke falsely in court.

Next I challenge you to show my any aspect of the Department's conduct in this entire matter that is not in violation, indeed, in contempt of the law the law you are supposed to administer, the law that is supposed to guarantee their rights to all Americans, including me.

I believe the record of the Department is an obscenity, a profanation of every American concept.

Its every act was designed to do two things: frustrate or violate the law and put me to great cost and trouble to deny me that the law guarantees me.

If you were genuine in your time-check when you took office, you should also be concerned about the costs of citizens abused by government, in this case, you and your Department. The false statements that I believe are contemptuous of the law, what I believe had to have been deliberate violations of the law, have cost me a number of days of wasted time at home, about a dozen trips to Washington, each costing a day of time and about $13.00 in out-of-pocket costs, and other costs in my writing. I think it only fair that these be repaid. The record could not be more clear, and I do ask it.

Mr. Hardley, who examined one of the things denied me and to my face told me he would not give it to me, in the presence of his secretary and my lawyer, was minus maintained in writing that this identical thing does not exist. He did this, on your Department's behalf, almost to the moment of court hearing. Then, the day before, your Department phoned my lawyer to say that that was withheld would be given me yesterday. It was not, as you know.

You, personally, failed to respond when I wrote that the single picture to which I had reduced my request had not been delivered after two months. You did not delivery it yesterday. Mr. Anderson's explanation, in itself inadequate, was that your office had just phoned him the night before.

The cover of the alleged file I saw was so copied that part of it was obscured. I am not of the opinion that you have such poor machinery or such incompetent operators. Please note that, consistent with what I have tried to tell you and your assistant, that I seek not sensation but truth and integrity in government, rather than take advantage of Mr. Anderson in court by showing this to the judge, I returned it to him. (He had asked me to write onto the xerox what was missing!)

The offense of Mr. Bardley is, I believe, a grevous one. As his superior, I ask that you do something about it. He lied, lied deliberately and knowingly, to the end that I be denied my rights and abused. I repeat, he told me he would not give me this file cover, and then, in a disgraceful manner, openly lied to try and do this. Is this the conduct you and Mr. Mitchell want of the lawyers under you? Can either of you condone it? We will see, won't we?

If you do nothing about this, then it will be clear that Mr. Bardley was not speaking for himself only, that such lies are the official policy and he bats its denial.

It is always the time for the posting of notes. While your Department and other administration officials are condemning the young people and others, you have failed to do better yourselves.

How about a little practise to go with the preaching?

To set the record straight, Mr. Anderson's statement in court that the two things he was then supposed to deliver and didn't were later requests I made, I have not added anything to the list I personally handed to Mr. Bardley. I would think that the one item of which I have made no issue, the letter assuring me that you did give me access to the entire file, is one you would want written. You did, if prematurely, assure the court you had complied with the law and my request. Please write me that assurance. In court it would be automatic. The record in this matter impels me to ask it in writing, again, and I do.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg